

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A cleaning apparatus comprising:
 - a handle;
 - a head coupled to the handle and including an upper arm and a side arm;
 - a spindle carried by the head;
 - at least one cleaning element carried on the spindle; and
 - a reinforcing member having one end fixed in the upper arm and the other end projecting laterally inwardly from said side arm and received in said spindle; and
 - a flexible connector between the handle and the head permitting more movement of the handle relative to the head in a first direction than in a substantially perpendicular second direction.
2. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the flexible connector is coupled to a shaft that connects the head to the handle.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the handle and the head define a first plane, the flexible portion permitting more movement of the handle relative to the head in the first plane than in a second mutually exclusive, angularly disposed plane.

5. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 4, wherein the flexible connector comprises:
a plurality of spaced apart segments.

6-11 (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 11, wherein:
the spindle has a circular cross-section.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
the handle is releasably connected to the shaft.

15. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:

mating threads formed in the handle and the shaft.

16. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

resilient material carried on the handle.

17. (Previously Presented) The cleaning apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

resilient material carried on the head.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The cleaning apparatus of claim 5, further comprising:
a mass of resilient material disposed about the folds.

20-22 (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein at least one resilient insert is mounted on both the upper and side arms of the head.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24 1, wherein said other end of said reinforcing member projects laterally inwardly from the side arm in a direction that is parallel to the upper arm.

26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22 1, further including a shaft coupled to the upper arm for releasably connecting the handle to the head.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the spindle includes a cartridge having first and second ends joined by a plurality of longitudinally extending strips.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 24, wherein the spindle has first and second end caps with one of said end caps having an opening through which said other end of said reinforcing member extends.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the spindle has an interior bearing member for rotatably receiving said second end of said reinforcing member.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the spindle is capable of bi-directional rotation.
31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein said cleaning element is mounted on the cartridge.